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**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Washington, DC 20515-6115**

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May 11, 2006

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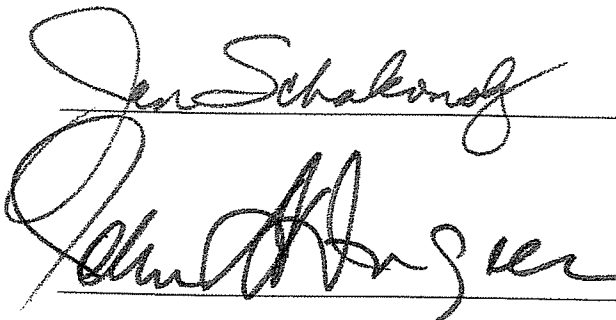
The Honorable Joe Barton  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

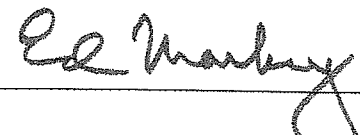
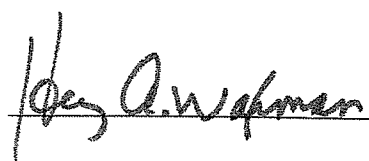
Dear Mr. Chairman:

As we are sure you have read in a *USA Today* article today, "NSA Has Massive Database of Americans' Phone Calls; 3 Telecoms Help Government Collect Billions of Domestic Records," AT&T, BellSouth, and Verizon have been providing the records of millions of Americans to the National Security Agency without consumers' knowledge or consent. We are very concerned about this practice and the privacy questions it raises.

The Committee on Energy and Commerce recently passed unanimously H.R. 4943, the Prevention of Fraudulent Access to Phone Records Act, that would protect consumers from having their phone calls accessed without their permission as is currently happening. Although it was scheduled for a vote on the House floor on May 2, 2006, it was pulled because of undisclosed concerns of the House Intelligence Committee that may relate to the above-mentioned article. As you know, we have had a good history of working on privacy and consumer issues together. With these recent revelations, we respectfully request that a full Committee hearing be held as soon as possible. We believe it is important to our constituents that we continue the fight to protect their rights.

Sincerely,

  
Jan Schakowsky

  
Ed Markey  
  
Henry A. Waxman

Lois Copps

Hilda Poliv

Dana White

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Bob L. Rush

Mark E. Johnson

Ed Dan

cc: The Honorable Cliff Stearns, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection

The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet

The Honorable Ed Whitfield, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations